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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

STATE review(s) completed.

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27 April 1970

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Approved For Release 2003/05/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A016100050001-7

Approved For Release 2003/05/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A016100050001-7

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No. 0100/70
27 April 1970

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

Laos: Enemy probes continue southwest of the Plaine des Jarres, but there has been no significant fighting. (Page 1)



25X1

Egypt-Israel: Cairo's recent military activity poses a difficult decision for the Israelis. (Page 4)

Yugoslavia: Belgrade will have to import wheat to meet next year's domestic needs. (Page 5)

Japan: Okinawa Day demonstrations (Page 6)

Trinidad: Revolt continues (Page 6)

Haiti: Revolt ends (Page 7)

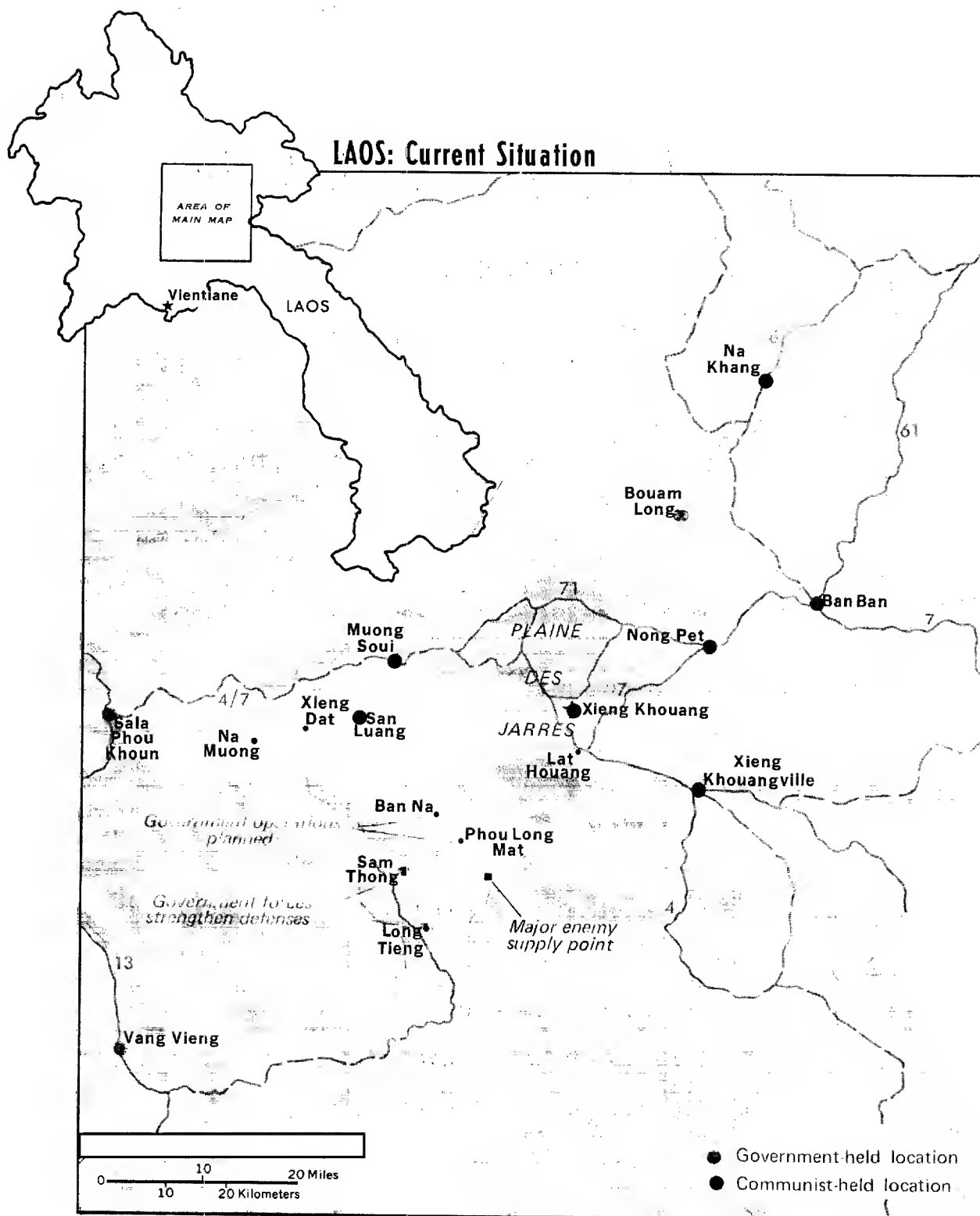
Colombia: Situation calm (Page 7)

Argentina: Labor problems (Page 7)

Egypt: Cabinet changes (Page 8)

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Laos: Communist forces continued to probe government positions southwest of the Plaine des Jarres over the weekend, but no significant fighting developed.

The enemy's offensive against Vang Pao's headquarters complex has been gradually building up over the past several weeks. Aerial observers recently spotted the tracks of some 25 trucks heading into a major supply point on the western edge of the Plaine, indicating that the logistics buildup is continuing.

Government forces, meanwhile, are taking advantage of the temporary hiatus in large-scale enemy activity to strengthen and consolidate their defenses in the Long Tieng - Sam Thong sector. Four 105-mm. howitzers are being airlifted from Long Tieng to Sam Thong to beef up that garrison's fire-support capability. In addition, Vang Pao is moving several battalions to staging areas in preparation for a new round of offensive operations northeast of Sam Thong in the Ban Na - Phou Long Mat region.
(Map)

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Egypt-Israel: The recent increase in Egyptian military activity will force Israel to make some difficult decisions.

During the past nine days, Cairo has launched a number of air and ground attacks against Israeli positions in occupied Sinai. Egyptian aircraft have been employed with unusual frequency, including a rare strike last Saturday deep into the Sinai by IL-28 light bombers. Ground action along the Suez Canal has also increased recently, and Egypt has reported that it carried out two commando raids against the Israelis yesterday.

In spite of losses incurred--90 Egyptian aircraft have been downed since the 1967 war--Cairo believes it must continue to oppose the Israeli occupation of the Sinai. Israeli air raids into Egypt, particularly those causing civilian casualties, increase the pressures on Nasir to act. The recent introduction of the Soviet-operated SA-3 air defense system into Egypt has probably contributed to Cairo's bravado by providing what it believes are areas of at least partial sanctuary from Israeli reprisals.

The Israelis are now faced with the problem of trying to discourage or curtail Egyptian military activity while attempting to avoid a direct confrontation with Soviet forces in Egypt. They are extremely reluctant to allow the Egyptians to hide under any form of Soviet umbrella, but are also hesitant to risk the losses that might result from attacks against these protected areas.

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Yugoslavia: Belgrade probably will have to import about 600,000 tons of wheat during 1970-71 to meet its domestic needs.

Current prospects are for a sharp decline in the wheat crop this year. An extended drought last fall caused a 10-percent reduction in the area seeded to winter wheat. Plants failed to develop adequately prior to the first snows, and a late, wet spring, which waterlogged some fields, further delayed growth. Moreover, it is now too late to replant spring wheat in the extensively damaged fields.

The lower acreage, combined with prospects for lower yields, could mean a harvest this year of no more than 4.2 million tons, or 15 percent less than in 1969. Last year, a record 4.9 million tons were harvested, which permitted Yugoslavia to be self-sufficient in wheat for the first time in recent years.

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Japan: Police expect some disturbances during annual Okinawa Day demonstrations on 28 April, but far fewer than a year ago. The demonstrations will be the first significant ones by the left since Prime Minister Sato departed for the US last November and are aimed at the immediate and unconditional return of Okinawa. They are not expected to generate much support, however, in view of the general popular satisfaction with the Okinawa reversion agreement. Most radical groups participating in the demonstrations are sticking to a nonviolent line, but a few small extremist student groups may try to stage some spectacular guerrilla-style incidents. [REDACTED]

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Trinidad: The government appears to have established tenuous control over the rebel stronghold at Teteron Bay by appointing a new regimental commander acceptable to the leaders of the revolt. About 40 mutineers are believed to remain in the hills surrounding the base, however, and the government apparently still doubts its ability to settle the issue by force. The administration seems to be prolonging the talks designed to end the week-old insurrection in the hope that the last rebels will surrender. In a private meeting with the US ambassador on Saturday, Prime Minister Williams indicated that he intends to arrest the ringleaders of the rebellion as soon as the remaining dissidents and their arms are in custody. If this violates any secret agreement with the rebels, it could lead to further disorders. [REDACTED]

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Haiti: The coast guard rebellion apparently ended yesterday when the three mutinous cutters fled to the US base in Guantanamo, Cuba. [They were scheduled to depart under escort last night for the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico.] In Port-au-Prince, where a state of siege and weekend curfew had been declared, activity in general appears nearly normal. Additional militia units have been brought to the capital from outlying districts, and a further roundup of suspected plotters is apparently under way. President Duvalier has requested US intervention several times since the revolt began on Friday. [REDACTED]

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[Colombia: Apart from minor terrorist incidents, the country remains calm. There is still a possibility, however, that further violence could occur as a result of the contested presidential elections of 19 April. The National Electoral Registry has not released final returns, but unofficial figures give National Front candidate Pastrana a lead of some 66,000 votes--a seemingly conclusive margin--over former dictator Rojas Pinilla. A general strike called late last week by leftist workers did not materialize. In view of the state of siege and the strict curfew the prospects for large-scale walkouts appear dim at present. [REDACTED]

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Argentina: The Onganía government has weathered a major challenge to its economic stabilization program. Government leaders are confident that the general strike, held on 23 April without major incident, has given them additional time to work out a solution to labor's demands for increased wages. The generally peaceful outcome of the strike was a setback for extremists in the labor movement, who have been urging a showdown with the government and the military. Their failure to attract much support among workers will temporarily ease pressure on the moderate national labor leaders now cooperating with the government. [REDACTED]

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Egypt: The more important of the cabinet changes announced yesterday appear to formalize the status of two of Nasir's trusted associates. The influence of Sami Sharaf, long a shadowy figure in the presidential office, was acknowledged by his appointment as a minister of state. Another Nasir confidant, the well-known editorialist Muhammad Haykal, was made minister of national guidance in an apparent attempt to improve Egypt's propaganda efforts. The former minister of national guidance was named minister of state for foreign affairs. The shifts probably will not result in any significant policy changes.

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